



## Wonderful Water

What do you do if you are thirsty and want a drink of water? What happens when you need to take a bath to get clean? Water is a wonderful and precious gift to have. For many of us, water is just a simple part of our lives. When we are thirsty we turn on a faucet and clean water comes pouring out. When we are dirty we get to take a nice warm bath or shower. This is possible because we have a reliable source of water. However, in many countries water is a luxury.

There are many rural places in Kenya that face this problem every day. For example, the Kisumu region of Kenya which is located near the equator has a major shortage of water. It is hot all year so this region struggles from drought. Here most people obtain their water from Lake Victoria, seasonal rivers and streams, and hand dug wells. The problem is all of these sources are contaminated. Often times women and children walk up to 6 miles a day to retrieve and haul water back to their towns. The great distance traveled to obtain water is also keeping young girls from attending school.

There are many organizations trying to help the country of Kenya solve their water crisis. One organization is helping solve the problem by building play pumps for kids. Merry-go-rounds are built for kids to play on. As it is spun around it pumps water from the ground that is stored in a large tank above the ground. A faucet is connected to the tank which allows the town to have fresh water.

How has this organization helped solve problems for the kids in Kenya? What would you do if you had no running water in your community? Can you think of any other ways to help the kids of Kenya get fresh water?